

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method to allow a mailer utilizing a data processing system to receive postal discounts for mailing at aan eligible postal entry point DDU site a plurality of mail pieces to a plurality of mailing addresses, wherein the postal discounts are provided in accordance with USPS Destination Delivery Unit (DDU) rate or discounting for mailing Periodicals and Standard Mail at a plurality of eligible USPS postal facilities, each eligible USPS postal facility associated with a plurality of local ZIP codes and carrier routes, said method comprising the steps of:

a) creating an eligible entry point DDU site lookup file containing a plurality of identification codes, each of which identifies one eligible DDU USPS postal facility so as to allow the mailer to use one of the identification codes to identify the postal entry point where the mailer drops off the mail pieces for mailing;

b) creating a drop ship index file containing a plurality of local ZIP codes and carrier routes associated with each eligible USPS postal facility; and

c) checking the mailing address of each mail piece in order to verify whether the mailing address is contained in the plurality of local ZIP codes and carrier routes associated with said postal entry point.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the entry point lookup file is created from a USPS Drop Ship Address File which contains addresses of eligible USPS postal facilities.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the drop ship index file is created from a USPS Drop Ship ZIP Carrier Route File which contains local ZIP codes and carrier routes associated with each eligible USPS postal facility.

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4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identification code is a nine-digit code.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identification code is a ZIP+4 code for an eligible USPS postal facility.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the identification code is a nine-digit code.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the nine-digit identification code is equivalent to a three-digit prefix or the five-digit ZIP code for an eligible USPS postal facility.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each eligible USPS postal facility has an address including a state, a city and a street, the identification codes in the entry point lookup file being sorted according to the address of the eligible USPS postal facilities by state, city and street.
9. (Previously Amended) A process for creating an entry point lookup file containing a plurality of identification codes so as to allow a mailer to use one of the identification codes to identify an eligible USPS postal facility where the mailer drops off a plurality of mail pieces for mailing the mail pieces in order to receive postal discounts, wherein the postal discounts are provided in accordance with USPS Destination Delivery Unit (DDU) rate or discounting for mailing Periodicals and Standard Mail, said process comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a USPS Drop Ship Address File, which contains a plurality of addresses of the eligible USPS postal facilities;
 - b) retrieving the addresses of the eligible DDU USPS postal facilities, wherein each address contains a ZIP code, a state, a city and a street;

- c) creating the plurality of identification codes, each identification code for one eligible DDU USPS postal facility based on the address thereof; and
 - d) sorting the plurality of identification codes according to the state, the city and the street of the eligible DDU USPS postal facilities.
10. (Original) The process of claim 9, wherein the identification codes are created based on the ZIP codes of the eligible USPS postal facilities.
11. (Original) The process of claim 9 further comprising the step of checking the retrieved addresses of the eligible USPS postal facilities to make sure the addresses are accurate.
12. (Original) The process of claim 9, wherein each identification code is a nine-digit code.
13. (Previously Amended) A process of creating a drop ship index file so as to allow a mailer to receive postal discounts for mailing at an eligible USPS postal facility a plurality of mail pieces to a plurality of mailing addresses, wherein the postal discounts are provided in accordance with USPS Destination Delivery Unit (DDU) rate or discounting for mailing Periodicals and Standard Mail at a plurality of eligible USPS postal facilities, wherein the drop ship index file contains a plurality of local ZIP codes and carrier routes associated with each eligible USPS postal facility, said process comprising the steps of:
- a) providing a USPS Drop Ship Address File, which contains a plurality of addresses of the eligible USPS postal facilities and a drop site key;
 - b) retrieving the addresses of the eligible USPS postal facilities, wherein each address contains a ZIP code;

- c) sorting the retrieved addresses of the eligible USPS postal facilities by the drop site key;
- d) providing a USPS Drop Ship ZIP Carrier Route File which contains a plurality of local ZIP codes and carrier routes associated with the eligible DDU USPS postal facilities, a drop site letter key, and a drop site other key;
- e) retrieving from the USPS Drop Ship ZIP Carrier Route File the plurality of local ZIP codes and carrier routes eligible for DDU discounting, the drop site letter key, and the drop site other key;
- f) sorting the retrieved local ZIP codes and carrier routes by the drop site letter key;
- g) merging the retrieved addresses of the eligible USPS postal facilities as sorted in step (c) and the retrieved local ZIP codes and carrier routes as sorted in step (d);
- h) sorting the merged addresses and ZIP codes/carrier routes by the drop site other key;
- i) creating a plurality of identification codes, each for one retrieved address of the eligible USPS postal facilities so that when the mailer uses an identification code to identify the eligible USPS postal facility where the mailer drops off the mail pieces for mailing, the local ZIP codes and carrier routes associated with said eligible USPS postal facility are used to check against each of the mailing addresses to determine whether said mailing address are available for DDU discounting.

14. (Original) The process of claim 13 further comprising the steps of eliminating duplicates in the identification codes, wherein two or more duplicate identification codes identify the same eligible USPS postal facility.